

THE  
L I F E  
O F  
F A I T H,

Exemplified and Recommended,

I N A

LETTER found in the Study of the  
Reverend Mr. JOSEPH BELCHER, late of  
*Dedham in New-England*, since his Decease.

An Answer to this Question,

*How to live in this World, so as to live in Heaven?*

To which is added;

A few Verses by the late Reverend Mr. KILLING-  
HALL, upon reading of it.

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L O N D O N :

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# THE LIFE OF THE LATE H. A. T. H.

Preserved and Accompanied

IN A

BRITISH  
MUSEUM

An Answer to the Question

How far the Life of the Late H. A. T. H.

is a Life

How far the Life of the Late H. A. T. H.  
is a Life

LONDON:

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A  
LETTER

Found in the Study of the Reverend

Mr. *Joseph Belcher,*

Late of *Dedham*, since his Decease,

An Answer to this Question,

*How to live in this World, so as to live in Heaven?*

*Dear Brother,*

**Y**OURS I received, and thought on that Question, being, *How to live in this World so as to live in Heaven?* It is one of the common Pleas of my Heart, which I have often Occasion to study, and therefore takes me not unprovided. It is hard to keep the Helm up against so many cross Winds\*, as we meet withal upon this Sea of Fire and Glafs. That

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Man

\* Num. xxi. 4.

Man knoweth not his own Heart, that finds it not difficult to break through the Entanglements of the World : *Creature-smiles* stop and entice away the Affections from JESUS CHRIST : *Creature-frowns* encompass and tempestuate the Spirit, that it thinks it doth well to be angry. Both Ways Grace is a Loser. We had all Need to watch and pray, lest we enter into Temptation. The greatest of your Conflicts and Causes of Complaints, seem to have their Original here ; Temptations follow Tempers. As there are two predominant Qualities in the Temper of every body ; so there are two predominant Sins in the Temper of every Heart ; *Pride* is one in all Men in the World. I will tell you familiarly what GOD hath done for my Soul, and in what Trade my Soul keeps toward himself. I am come to a Conclusion to look after no great Matters in the World, but to know CHRIST, and him crucified. I make best Way in a low Gale. A high Spirit and a high Sail together will be dangerous ; and therefore I prepare to live low. I desire not much, I pray against it ; my Study is my Calling, so much as to tend that without Distraction, I am bound to plead for ; and more I desire not. By  
my



my secluded Retirements, I have advantage to observe how every Day's Occasions insensibly wear off the Heart from GOD, and bury it in Self, which they who live in Care and Lumber, cannot be sensible of. I have seemed to see a Need of every Thing GOD gives me ; and to want nothing that he denies me. There is no Dispensation, tho' afflictive, but either in it, or after it, I find I could not be without it ; whether it be taken from me, or not given to me, sooner or later GOD quiets me in Himself without it. I cast all my Concerns on the LORD, and live securely on the Care and Wisdom of my heavenly Father. My Ways, you know, are in some Sense hedged up with Thorns, and grow darker and darker daily : But yet I distrust not my good GOD in the least, and live more quietly in the Absence of all, by Faith, than I should do, I am persuaded, if I possessed them. I think the LORD deals kindly with me to make me believe for all my Mercies, before I have them : They will then be *Isaacs*, Sons of Laughter. The less Reason hath to work upon, the more freely Faith casts itself on the Faithfulness of GOD. I find that whilst Faith is steady nothing can disquiet me ; and when Faith totters,

ters, nothing can establish me : If I tumble out amongst Means and Creatures, I am presently lost, and can come to no End : But if I stay myself on God, and leave him to work in his own Way and Time, I am at rest, and can sit down and sleep in a Promise, when a Thousand rise up against me ; therefore, my Way is not to cast before Hand, but to work with God by the Day : *Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof.* I find so much to do continually with my Calling and my Heart, that I have no Time to puzzle myself with Peradventures \* and Futurities. As for the State of the Times, it is very gloomy and tempestuous : *But why do the Heathen rage ?* Faith lies at Anchor in the midst of the Waves, and believes the Accomplishment of the Promise through all those Overturnings, Confusions, and seeming Impossibilities †. Upon this God do I live, who is our God for ever, and will guide us to the Death : Methinks I lie becalm'd in his Bosom, as *Luther* in such a case. I am not much concerned, let CHRIST see to it. I know Prophecies are now dark, and the Books are sealed, and Men have all been deceived, and every Cistern fails ; yet God doth continue faithful ; and faithful is he that hath pro-

\* 2 Chron. xx. 20.

† 2 Chron. xiv. 11.



promised, who will do it. I believe these dark Times are the womb of a bright Morning. Many things more I might have said, but enough. Oh! Brother, keep close to God, and then you need fear nothing. Maintain secret and intimate Communion with God, and then a little of the Creature will go a great Way. Take Time for Duties in Private. Crowd not Religion into a Corner of the Day. There is a *Dutch* Proverb, *Nothing is got by Thieving, nor lost by Praying*. Lay up all your Good in God, so as to over-balance the Sweetness and Bitterness of all Creatures. Spend no Time \* anxiously in Fore- and Contrivances for this World. They never succeed; God will run his Dispensations another Way. Self-contrivances are the Effects of Unbelief; I can speak by Experience: Would Men spend those Hours they run out in Plots and Devices, in Communion with God, and leave all on him by venturesome Believing, they would have more of Peace and Comfort. I leave you with your God and mine. The LORD JESUS be with your Spirit. Pray for your own Soul; pray for *Jerusalem*; and pray hard for your poor Brother.

I. In

\* Matt. vi. 34. Phil. iv. 6.

## I.

*In all my Trouble, sharp and strong  
 My Soul to JESUS flies;  
 My Anchor-hold is firm in him,  
 When swelling Billows rise.*

## II.

*His Comforts bear my Spirits up,  
 I trust a faithful GOD:  
 The sure Foundation of my Hope,  
 Is in a Saviour's Blood.*

## III.

*Loud Hallelujah's sing, my Son,  
 To thy Redeemer's Name:  
 In Joy and Sorrow, Life and Death,  
 His Love is still the same.*

FINIS.

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